

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 19, with the following replacement paragraph:

In some variations, optical network 103 transfers the user communications over the first optical wavelength in a first physical path. If there is a problem with this transmission, then optical system 103 transfers the user communications over the second optical wavelength in a second physical path. In some cases, the first physical path may be geographically diverse from the second physical path. Geographical diversity means that the two physical paths remain physically separated by more than 20 miles except for the portions of optical network 103 coupled with and proximate to POPs 101 and 102. In other cases, the first physical path may be physically diverse from the second physical path. Physical diversity means that the two wavelengths propagate over different optical fibers.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 3, with the following replacement paragraph:

In some variations, WDM system 223 detects the problem with the transfer of the user communications over optical wavelength ~~231~~ and 231 and responsively transfers a control instruction to wavelength switching system 221. Wavelength switching system 221 receives the control instruction and transfers the user communications to WDM system 223 over optical wavelength 232 responsive to the control instruction.